

Press Release

HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Department of Emergency Services



PUBLIC SAFETY

"Ensuring a Safe
Harford"

EDUCATION

"Preparing Now,
Building for the Future"

EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

"Governing Smarter"

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

"Growing and Sustaining
Harford's Prosperity"

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

"Protecting Our
Environment"

QUALITY LIVING

"Safeguarding What is
Important to Harford
County Citizens"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 21, 2013

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Hurricane Season Predicted to be Above Normal

Harford County officials recommend early preparedness

(Forest Hill, MD) - - The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) recently announced its hurricane season forecast for the remainder of 2013. The NOAA predicts six to nine hurricanes during the peak hurricane season which begins in mid-August and runs through mid-October.

"Hurricane season is upon us," said Harford County Emergency Manager Rick Ayers. "It is everyone's responsibility to plan for and make appropriate preparations for severe weather, including hurricanes," Ayers said.

The Harford County Department of Emergency Services recommends citizens prepare for severe weather events, especially hurricanes, by reviewing their storm survival plan as well as take the opportunity now to restock any supplies, including food, water and other items to help get through a storm. Additionally Harford County emergency management officials suggest citizens' test their battery-powered flashlights and radios to ensure they are storm ready.

In preparation for the peak of the 2013 hurricane season, the Harford County Department of Emergency Services recommends the following precautionary measures be taken to help ensure safety during such storms:

- Ensure homes are equipped with portable flashlights and fresh batteries. In the event of the loss of electricity from a storm, use flashlights in lieu of candles for emergency lighting.
- Have at least a three (3) day supply of fresh water and canned goods available.
- Have at least one battery powered portable radio available and in good working order, to monitor news and weather information.
- When using portable generators, should the loss of electricity occur, keep generators outdoors, away from the home or an enclosed area to help prevent carbon monoxide poisoning to the occupants of a home or business.

(more)

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For storm preparedness tips, go to the Harford County Department of Emergency Services website at www.harfordpublicsafety.org and click on “*Surviving the Storm*” icon. Additionally citizens can learn more about preparations for hurricanes at www.ready.gov/hurricanes.

Residents are also encouraged to add their cell phone numbers to the **Harford County Emergency Notification System** by clicking the “*Sign Up Now for Notifications*” icon on the main webpage or by contacting the Department of Emergency Services at 410-638-4900.

“The Department of Emergency Services is the coordinator of emergency management as well as storm response and mitigation efforts in Harford County,” said Director Russell J. Strickland. “Surviving a storm is everyone’s responsibility and the best way to do so is early planning and preparation which are keys to successfully meeting the challenges of the severe weather which we often find in Harford County and throughout the mid-Atlantic region,” Strickland added.

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“Preserving Harford’s past; promoting Harford’s future”